been amended by Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 2002, whereby provisions have been made for establishing an institutional structure in the form of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)/National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) to handle, *inter-alia,* winding up of companies. The constitution of NCLT/NCLAT, however has been held up due to a legal challenge and the matter is pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(c) There are 694 Companies in liquidation as on 31.11.2006 with the Official Liquidator attached to the Delhi High Court. Out of these 694 companies, 622 companies are in compulsory liquidation and 72 are in voluntary liquidation.

Prevention of cartelization by CCI

2134. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Competition Commission of India has become ineffective as it does not have sufficient power to prevent cartelization, dominances and combinations of companies;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to make the CCI more powerful to prevent cartelization?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) The Competition Act, 2002 has provisions to deal with matters relating to prohibition of anti-competitive agreement (including cartels), prohibition of abuse of dominance and regulation of combination, and Competition Commission of India (CCI) established under the Act has the duty to eliminate practices which have adverse effect on competition. The CCI was established on 14th October, 2003 but the Commission could not be made fully operational as certain provisions of the Act were challenged before the Supreme Court. The Apex Court has since delivered its Judgment in the matter. Keeping in view the Judgement of the Apex Court the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2006, suggesting amendments to the Competition Act, 2002 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 9th March, 2006. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance for its consideration. The Commission would be made fully operational once amendments to the Competition Act, 2002 are enacted.